

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DLOS-02

DODE-00 EB-04 H-01 INR-05 IO-06 L-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 PM-03 /062 W

-----132051Z 109612 /64

R 131505Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9354

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0682

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, BF, CU, US

SUBJ: BRIEFING FOR GCOB ON US-CUBA FISHERIES BOUNDARIES

REF: A. NASSAU 0621; B) NASSAU 0390; C) NASSAU 0675

1. WHEN EMBOFF BRIEFED MINEXTAFF DEPPERMSEC STEWART MAY 3 ON US-CUBAN NEGOTIATIONS, STEWART, AS ANTICIPATED REF A, ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT FISHERIES ZONES TRIFURCATION POINT AND TREATMENT OF CAY SAL AREA. WE ASSUME THAT TRIGURCATION POINT REMAINS AT 23 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 24 SECONDS NORTH, 781 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 27 SECONDS WEST (POINT NO. 98) AND THAT NOTHING WAS DONE WITH CUBANS TO PREJUDICE BAHAMAS' CLAIMS IN CAY SAL AREA AND FEEL IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO REASSURE GCOB ON BOTH POINTS.

2. AS STATED REF B, WE FEEL PROCESS OF IMPROVING US-CUBAN RELATIONS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BAHAMAS AND US-GCOB RELATIONS AT LEAST TO EXTENT OF KEEPING GCOB INFORMED OF MOVES THAT COULD AFFECT BAHAMAS. GIVEN FACT THAT GCOB WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO NEGOTIATE MEDIAN LINE AND OTHER FISHERIES ISSUES WITH CUBA AND GIVEN ALSO RECENT INDICATIONS (REF C) THAT THAT EVENTUALITY MAY BE SOONER  
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RATHER THAN LATER, WE FEEL THAT GCOB WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFING ON US-CUBAN FISHERIES NEGOTIATION -- BRIEFING THAT WOULD PRESUMABLY ENABLE GCOB TO ENTER OWN BILATERALS WITH CUBA REASSURED AND FOREARMED. SINCE, AS WE UNDERSTAND, US-CUBAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR GIFA AND FURTHER TALKS ON LICENSING, BRIEFING MIGHT ALSO CONCEIVABLY HELP US IN US-GCOB BILATERAL ON LICENSING QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD

IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT NEW GCOB FISHERIES LAW (REF C) CONTAINS LICENSING PROVISIONS AND, ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER PINDLING IN HIS MAY 11 PRESENTATION OF BILL TO HOUSE, SUPERSEDES 1974 FISHERIES ACT, WHICH DECLARED SPINY LOBSTER A CREATURE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

3. RECOMMENDATION: THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF GCOB ON US-CUBAN FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND BE PROVIDED INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO DO SO OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT DEPARTMENT BRIEF AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ON SUBJECT. LATTER COURSE WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF ALLOWING USG EXPERTS TO SPEAK FIRST-HAND. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO HAVE OUR LOS TEAM BRIEF GCOB TEAM IN NEW YORK. THIS COURSE WOULD PROVIDE MORE INFORMALITY AND WOULD ASSURE THAT WE ARE CATCHING THE EARS OF THOSE IN GCOB (E.G., STEWART AND/OR ADDERLEY) MOST CONCERNED WITH ISSUE.  
TAYLOR

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## Message Attributes

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